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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-Hour Report

26 MARCH 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Sacramento – Man Arrested for Allegedly Placing Pipe Bombs at Sacramento Elementary School

(U) Police arrested an individual believed to be responsible for placing pipe bombs and a zip gun near a South Sacramento elementary school. Investigators with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office identified the suspect following a school employee discovering a "suspicious pipe that looked like an explosive device" sitting on the sidewalk in front of the school. A "zip gun" was also found outside the elementary school. Authorities booked the suspect on four felony charges.

SOURCE: 25 March 2021, ABC 10

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Arizona – Gila Bend Declares 'State of Emergency' as CBP Drop Off Migrants in Town

(U) Gila Bend – The Mayor of Gila Bend declared a state of emergency due to the large number of migrants that have continued to be dropped off by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in the small Arizona community. The Mayor advised that the town has no resources to provide the migrants and he "doesn't see an end in sight." Sixteen migrants were dropped off earlier in the week at a park with families from Venezuela and Chile with young children. The Mayor hopes the declaration sends a message to the state and Maricopa County that they need assistance.

SOURCE: 25 March 2021, AZ Family

(U) Texas - CBP Field Operations Arrests Local Man with \$13 Million Worth of Methamphetamine

(U) Hidalgo – US CBP Office of Field Operations at the Hidalgo International Bridge arrested a suspect in connection with a failed drug smuggling attempt of alleged methamphetamine worth \$1.3 million. The suspect, a US citizen, arrived at the bridge and authorities referred him for further examination. The imaging equipment discovered that the vehicle's tires contained suspected narcotics. A total of 88 packages weighing more than 67-pounds were removed from the tires. CBP seized the narcotics, the vehicle, and arrested the driver who was turned over to the custody of agents with the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) as they continue with the investigation.

SOURCE: 25 March 2021, US CBP

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Parler Sent the FBI Posts about Threats to the US Capitol Ahead of 6 January

(U) Washington – The social network Parler advised that it worked with law enforcement for months to identify possible illegal activity ahead of 6 January, including notifying authorities of specific threats to the US Capitol. Parler advised that if formalized its relationship with the FBI in November "to facilitate proactive cooperation and referrals of violent threats and incitement to law enforcement." The FBI declined to comment on the letter or on what it has done with any information it has received. SOURCE: 25 March 2021, New York Times

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(U) Florida – University of Miami Investigating 'Data Security Incident' on Campus

(U) Miami – Officials at the University of Miami released a statement stating they are investigating a possible cyber-attack that could have caused the release of student information. The incident involved Accellion, a third-party provider of hosted file transfer services. The school advised it reported the breach to law enforcement, adding it was limited to the specific server and did not affect other systems at the university or linked to their network.

SOURCE: 26 March 2021, NBC Miami

(U) Kentucky - Man with Body Armor, Guns, Possible Explosives Arrested at University Hospital

(U) Lexington – Authorities arrested an individual in possession of firearms, body armor, and possible explosives at a University of Kentucky hospital in Lexington. Authorities were tipped off by police in a nearby town that the suspect, allegedly visiting a family member in the hospital, may be "armed and dangerous." The suspect was apprehended upon exiting the hospital. Authorities believed the suspect had explosive devices in his vehicle and in possession of firearms and body armor. An investigation into the incident is ongoing by federal authorities.

SOURCE: 25 March 2021, NBC News

(U) Oregon – Two Brothers Arrested for Attack on US Capitol

(U) Portland – Federal authorities arrested two Oregon brothers in connection with the 6 January attack on the US Capitol. The brothers also participated in violent far-right protests in Salem and Portland months before they traveled to Washington, DC. The brothers are the first Oregonians charged for direct involvement in the insurrection that sought to prevent Congress from certifying the 2020 election. The indictment alleges one brother is a self-described member of the Proud Boys, a far-right group that played a central role in the insurrection.

SOURCE: 25 March 2021, Oregon Public Broadcasting

(U) Virginia – Two Pipe Bombs Found in Home of Arlington Man Accused of Threatening Woman

(U) Arlington – Authorities in Arlington arrested an individual after witnesses advised he showed them a gun and ammunition while making threatening comments about harming people he knew. Police searched the suspect's home and found two pipe bombs that were later cleared by the bomb squad. Authorities charged the suspect with two counts of possession of explosive materials or devices, possession of a sawed-off shotgun, and threats of death or bodily injury to a person. Federal authorities also responded to the scene and it remains an active joint criminal investigation.

SOURCE: 25 March 2021, NBC Washington

(U) Virginia – US Seizes Websites Used by Foreign Terrorist Organization

(U) Alexandria – The US government has seized 'r-m-n.net" and Almaalomah.com," two websites that were unlawfully utilized by Kata'ib Hizballah, a Specially Designated National and a Foreign Terrorist Organization. Federal law prohibits designated entities like Kata'ib Hizballah from obtaining or utilizing goods or services, including website and domain services, in the US without a license from the Office of Foreign Assets Control. Kata'ib Hizballah did not obtain a license from the Office of Foreign Assets Control prior to utilizing the domain names.

SOURCE: 25 March 2021, US DOJ

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Morocco – Four Arrested for Links to Alleged ISIS Plot

(U) Rabat – Authorities in eastern Morocco arrested four suspected Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS)-linked extremists who were allegedly assigned to attack a military base and other sensitive targets.

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US intelligence services worked closely with counterparts in the North African kingdom to dismantle the cell. Authorities advised the four initially planned to travel to the Sahel to join fighting there but were instructed by an alleged ISIS leader to carry out attacks in Morocco instead of traveling to the Sahel. More than 1,000 Moroccans are believed to have joined ISIS between 2013 and 2017 in Iraq and Syria. SOURCE: 25 March 2021, Toronto Star

(U) Turkey – Turkey Arrests Two Foreign Nationals for Links to Terrorist Groups

(U) Istanbul – Authorities arrested two foreign nationals in central Turkey over their alleged links to terrorist groups. The suspects, both Syrian nationals, were arrested when police raided two addresses due to the suspects' ties to terrorist organizations in Syria. Authorities seized digital materials and a blank firing gun in the operation. The suspects were handed over to authorities to be deported. SOURCE: 25 March 2021, <u>Daily Sabah</u>

- (U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.
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